

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-11 and 13-20 have been rejected over the admitted prior art (APA) and Kato, U.S. Patent No. 6,148,031. Further, claims 2 and 12 have been rejected over the APA and Kato combination, further in view of Okayama et al, U.S. Publication No. 2003/0122941 (Okayama). Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection for the following reasons.

In particular, claims 1 and 11, which are the pending independent claims, have been amended to clarify the present invention with respect to that of the Kato reference. According to the invention, a photoelectric sensor converts light focused on horizontally and vertically arranged pixels into electric pixel signals. The pixel signals accumulated in each of the pixels are output with interlace by subsampling the pixel signals for each line in a first signal read mode. Further, a sum of the pixel signals in the two pixels adjoining each other in the vertical direction are sequentially output with non-interlace in a second signal read mode. Each of claims 1 and 11 has been amended to clarify that the two pixels adjoining each other in the vertical direction are sequentially output with non-interlace in the second signal read mode. Further, each of the independent claims includes a rate converter for converting the number of the output images of the second video signal per a unit time into another number and the non-interlaced scan into an

interlaced scan. The combination set forth in claims 1 and 11, therefore, is not suggested to one having ordinary skill in the art from the APA discussed by Applicants in view of the Kato reference. Therefore, the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection should be withdrawn.

Although the Examiner also relies upon Okayama in rejecting claims 2 and 12, the reference is insufficient when combined with APA and Kato to render the invention as set forth in the independent claims unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103. Accordingly, each of claims 2 and 12 is patentable at least for depending from a patentable base claim, which has been asserted to be patentable for the foregoing reasons.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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